

under perfect conditions, off-site treatment could potentially offer cost and time savings, the conditions involved with the destruction of chemical weapons are far from perfect.

With respect to Newport, the battle over off-site disposal has added at least three years and an indeterminable amount of taxpayer money to the final completion and cost of destruction of the 1,200 tons of VX stored there. I have repeatedly called for the release of a detailed cost-benefit analysis of various destruction options for the VX hydrolysate at Newport, but the Department of Defense refuses to provide this information. Recently the Department of Defense stated that one option for treating the VX hydrolysate, supercritical water oxidation, would add \$300 million and an additional two years. But they provide absolutely no supporting evidence of this claim. In fact, some say that this method would cost \$30 to \$35 million and could be up and running in a year. Another key fact going unmentioned is that VX would continue to be neutralized while an on-site hydrolysate treatment facility is built. After all isn't neutralization of the VX the most important thing we want to accomplish? I call on the Department of Defense to provide a detailed justification of this \$300 million dollar claim in addition to why they think it would add two years to final destruction.

For too long the decision making process for the destruction of our chemical weapons has been a closed process that hasn't adequately considered the opinions of affected communities. I call on Congress to tighten its oversight of this program and demand a detailed justification of all possible ways to destroy chemical weapon hydrolysate at Newport, Blue Grass and Pueblo. Those communities have suffered long enough with the presence of these deadly weapons. We must demand a much better justification of why we should expose new communities to this risk. As seen by the frustrating and problematic path that the Department of Defense has followed in Newport since September 11, 2001, the stubborn pursuit of off-site disposal of hydrolysate has resulted in longer exposure to the threat of chemical weapons in our country while preventing us from meeting our treaty obligations. It is past due for Congress to take a much more active role in exercising its Constitutional responsibility of oversight of this effort.

TRIBUTE TO SIMON WIESENTHAL

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Simon Wiesenthal, who passed away last night at the age of 96. Wiesenthal, a Holocaust survivor, was responsible for bringing over 1,100 Nazi war criminals to justice. Equally as important, he played a major roll in the founding of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles and the world renowned Museum of Tolerance, which works diligently for the defense of human rights and the Jewish people.

The work of Mr. Wiesenthal is especially important to my district which is home to one of the largest concentrations of Holocaust sur-

vivors in the United States. Just this past weekend I stood with many of those survivors and several of their liberators in Skokie, Illinois to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps. As the conscience and voice for not only the Holocaust's 6,000,000 Jewish victims but for the millions of others who were murdered by the Nazis as well, Wiesenthal was and will always remain a hero to our community.

When Simon Wiesenthal was asked why he chose to pursue the Nazi criminals and, bring them to justice, Wiesenthal responded, "You believe in God and life after death. I also believe. When we come to the other world and meet the millions of Jews who died in the camps and they ask us, 'What have you done?', there will be many answers. You will say, 'I became a jeweler.' Another will say, 'I have smuggled coffee and American cigarettes.' Another will say, 'I built houses.' But I will say, 'I didn't forget you.'"

When the Holocaust came to an end, Simon Wiesenthal never forgot. And because he became the leading representative of the victims, determined to bring the perpetrators of history's greatest crime to justice, we will never forget Simon Wiesenthal. Many have noted that the heinous acts of the Holocaust, for their scale and brutality, make real justice for victims and survivors impossible. No punishment, even death for those Nazi criminals who were later apprehended, could match the horrific misery suffered by Hitler's victims. But, nonetheless, Simon Wiesenthal's work, his tireless pursuit of the last century's most abhorrent criminals, brought a measure of justice and a measure of peace to the Jewish community. Most importantly, he was a reminder that "Never Forget" is not a guarantee, but a pledge, one for which we all share responsibility. Mr. Wiesenthal's work reminded the world that crimes against humanity left unpunished, will be repeated. With the passing of Simon Wiesenthal, the world now has an additional responsibility to embrace the lessons of the Holocaust and fight hatred and intolerance wherever it exists.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND HONORING THE LEGACY OF SIMON WIESENTHAL

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today we mourn the passing of Simon Wiesenthal, a man who dedicated his life to the search of fugitive Nazi war criminals. The ideals of truth and justice guided his effort to fight anti-Semitism and as we mourn, we are reminded of our commitment to these ideals as part of our duty to humanity.

Simon Wiesenthal was born on December 31, 1908 in Buczacz, Galicia, then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and now part of Ukraine. He received a degree in architectural engineering in 1932 from the Technical University of Prague, and in 1936 he began working at an architectural office in Lvov; he did not, however, continue his career in architecture. Three years later, with the partition of Poland and the flood of the Red Army in Lvov, Simon Wiesenthal began losing family mem-

bers to German brutality. After escaping several near-death situations himself, in 1945 Simon Wiesenthal was liberated by American forces from the concentration camp of Mauthausen in Austria.

After almost giving up, Simon Wiesenthal regained his strength and redefined his life's task as a quest for justice. He did not vow to fight for vengeance. Instead, the goal of his noble cause was to create a historical memory that would prevent any repetition of the horrible atrocities committed during the Holocaust.

He was instrumental in tracking down fugitive Nazis, and a significant component of his mission was to pressure governments around the world to continue their pursuit and persecution of war criminals. The Simon Wiesenthal Center, an international Jewish human rights organization dedicated to preserving the memory of the Holocaust carries on his legacy.

Simon Wiesenthal was committed to the remembrance of those who he feared would be forgotten, and today we become committed to remembering him. While in Vienna in 1993, Simon Wiesenthal said, "To young people here, I am the last. I'm the one who can still speak. After me, it's history." To continue his mission, we must not forget this history. We must continue to fight for the same principles that defined Simon Wiesenthal's objective. It is troubling that even today one of the most notorious sentiments of the Second World War—anti-Semitism—has yet to be eradicated. It is our duty to combat anti-Semitism and all religious bigotry whenever and wherever it arises.

When asked why he chose to search for Nazi war criminals instead of continuing a career in architecture, Simon Wiesenthal responded: "You're a religious man. You believe in God and life after death. I also believe. When we come to the other world and meet the millions of Jews who died in the camps and they ask us, 'What have you done?' there will be many answers. You will say, 'I became a jeweler.' Another will say, 'I smuggled coffee and American cigarettes.' Still another will say, 'I built houses,' but I will say, 'I didn't forget you.'"

And today, we must unite to say that we will not forget Simon Wiesenthal and we, as strong and responsible human beings, will carry forth his mission.

SOUTH CAROLINA ENDURES TRAGIC LOSSES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 14, 2005, the people of South Carolina endured a tragic loss in an auto accident killing Circuit Judge Marc Westbrook and his law clerk, Randall Davis, Jr. The following obituaries are from The State newspaper of Columbia, South Carolina, on September 16, 2005. South Carolina will always cherish their memories.

JUDGE MARC H. WESTBROOK

Services for Judge Marc H. Westbrook, 58, of West Columbia, South Carolina, will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, September 18, 2005, at Springdale Baptist Church, officiated by